Shifting the headquarters of western railway from Mumbai to Ahmedabad

896. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has once again represented to his Ministry in February, 2008 regarding shifting the headquarters of Western Railway from Mumbai to Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the decision taken by his Ministry on the representation of the Government of Gujarat;

(c) the reason for prolonged delay in shifting the Western Railway Headquarters from Mumbai to Ahmedabad; and

(d) by when it would be materialized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (d) The location of a Zonal Railway Headquarters is decided on the basis of operational and administrative requirements without any regional considerations. Moreover, the shifting of a well established office shall also involve transfer of a large number of staff resulting in dislocation of their family set-up and other allied problems. The Western Railway headquarters at Mumbai is working satisfactorily. Any change in the present arrangement is not contemplated.

All the earlier representations received in this regard have been replied accordingly.

Rail accidents

†897. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of fire and derailment of trains taken place in the country during last year;

(b) the causes of each incident and the loss of life and property in it; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to check the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 11 cases of fire and 92 cases of derailment of trains taken place in the country during the last year.

(b) Details are attached as Statement (*See* below).

(c) Following steps are taken to check the recurrence of such incidents in future:-

1. Staff responsible for operation of train are being trained and counselled for safe running of Trains.
2. Intensive training/counselling/refresher courses and periodical medical examination of safety category staff are conducted regularly to ensure their competency and suitability for the job.
3. Safety seminars are organized to inculcate safety consciousness among the train running staff.
4. Priority given to Rail renewal in fracture prone areas and also rail stretches.
5. Importance given to high quality of track.
6. Regular inspection of track condition is being done.
7. Media publicity and announcement through Public Address system at stations for prevention of accidents at unmanned level crossing, fire/explosion in trains.
8. Regular check by the RPF personnel to ensure that inflammable items are not carried in the train. Action is taken against erring travelers under provision of the Railways Act.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.